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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MANAGERS

OF THE

## APPRENTICES' LIBRARY COMPANY

OF

## PHILADELPHIA.

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Read at a Meeting of the Company, held at their room, on the 12th of  
March, 1844, and published by their order.

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TO THE  
APPRENTICES' LIBRARY COMPANY  
OF PHILADELPHIA.

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ANOTHER current year in the history of the Company has passed since its last meeting, and the term for which your Board of Managers was elected, is about to close.

In resigning the important trust confided to them, the Managers also resign a responsibility, whose magnitude cannot be determined by ordinary data, and whose limits are only bounded by the utmost capabilities of the Institution. The Board cannot flatter itself that it has filled up the measure of usefulness of the Institution's capacities; though it cannot but regard with satisfaction its operations through the past year, as well as its present condition.

If the fruits of its labours were immediate and apparent, instead of prospective, and knowledge and virtue were to spring up instantly under instruction, your Board would have no difficulty in presenting a statement of the usefulness of the Library under the management of the year; but as the work is one of faith, and not of sight—one in which the seeds of knowledge of the arts and sciences, and of wisdom and virtue, are but sown, as the bread that was cast upon the waters, in confidence and expectation that the fruits will be seen, though after many days, it can only speak of its operations, and leave the results to time and Providence.

Then although we may not point to some of our worthiest citizens and brightest ornaments in the fields of literature, science, and the mechanic arts, and with admiration and delight claim them as the result of the labours of this Board, yet we may do so for our predecessors and our Institution; and in the face of a multitude of living witnesses to the zeal of the former,

and the utility of the latter, repose in the confidence of hope, that *our labours* have not been in vain.

There is much to encourage the company, in the grateful acknowledgments of many good and valuable members of society, who declare themselves to be deeply its debtors:—favourable testimonials in any cause are encouraging, but in this, whose *source* is benevolence, and whose *rewards*, the testimonies of the conscience, how exceedingly delightful!

The cause of the Company is one which rewards its agents with the highest enjoyments of humanity—the approbation of the moral sentiments. To the good and benevolent, this is all-sufficient. For them, the contemplation of the good which they do is ample recompense, as the happiness of their lives consists in promoting that of others. *But it is not so much in view of the mere delights of benevolence, in the dissemination of its benefits,* as in the substantial and practical results of its actions, both upon individuals and society, that we would present and urge the claims of the Library upon the attention of its friends and the public.

The cause in which the company is engaged, is that of the apprentice boy and the apprentice girl; whose education and influence, for good or for evil, upon the laws, morals, and manners of the country, may not be regarded by society as unimportant, in view of our “peculiar institutions.”

Leaving then, the germs which have been planted in the youthful mind during the past year, to the action of time for development, the Board of Managers would respectfully present a statement of the condition of the Institution, and of the means which have been used to carry out the designs of the Company.

It is with pleasure we report the Library in full and successful operation; and we believe that it has not, at any period of its existence, surpassed, if it has equalled, the present in efficiency.

As applicants for books from both the boys and girls' Libraries continued to increase, it was found that a large number were scholars, and that many of them were of such an age, that they could not properly be embraced in the privileges of the Company. It was also found, that as the smaller school boys

and girls increased, the larger apprentices diminished in number. This was owing to the difficulty of procuring books. To remedy this evil, a rule was adopted to receive no new applications from scholars under 14 years of age. This rule has worked admirably; since its adoption the ratio of increase, as the guarantees testify, has been decidedly in favour of apprentices, and at present there is no difficulty in procuring books.

The experiment of a separate Library for girls has been fairly tried, and we think, after an experience of eighteen months, that the utility of the enterprise is amply proved. It is to be regretted, however, that the funds of the Company will not permit an increase of this Library, to an extent commensurate with the wants of the class for whom it was designed. For the purpose of bringing into requisition and use the more solid and valuable books of the Library, by creating a taste for the higher branches of literature, science, and the mechanic arts, and with the design of employing the whole force of our Institution, upon the grand object of our efforts, in every practicable and suitable way, it was deemed advisable to institute a winter series of popular, scientific, and useful lectures, for the free and general use and benefit of the boys and girls using our Libraries. The enterprise has been thus far successful; and the system may be regarded as a most pleasant, as well as forcible means of instruction.

The Committee to whom the subject was entrusted, had but comparatively little trouble to carry out the intentions of the Board, as a sufficient number of our citizens, actuated by a lofty and pure spirit of benevolence, which comprehended the motives and aims of the enterprise, cordially consented to deliver gratuitously the requisite number of lectures. To those gentlemen, the Company is much indebted for their aid, and the Board of Managers hope that their successors in office will employ some suitable means to testify to them at the end of the series, their appreciation of their kindness.

Since the adoption of the rule restricting the age of applicants for books, there has been an evident improvement in the general deportment of the boys visiting the Library; and though the number is not so large as at the same period last year, the

benefits conferred by the institution are more justly appreciated, and its usefulness, though less extended, is much increased.

The average number of books loaned from the Boys' Library, has been 1024 ; the number at the present time is 1150 ; and 1045 new applicants have been admitted during the year. The whole number of volumes in the Boys' Library is about 12,000, of which 70 have been added since the last report : 270 volumes which were so much worn as to be unfit for re-binding, were taken from the shelves and presented to the " Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons."

The Girls' Library contains about 2000 volumes ; 101 of which have been added during the year.

The average number of girls using the Library is over 300 ; and at this time 270 are availing themselves of its advantages. There have been 292 new applicants admitted during the past year.

Eighteen new members have been added to the Company since its last Annual Meeting.

The Treasurer's Report herewith submitted, will exhibit the financial condition of the Company.

JOHN BOUVIER, Chairman.

WM. R. MAXFIELD, Sec'y.

Third mo. 7th, 1844.



*Samuel Mason, Treasurer, in account with the Apprentices' Library Company, from 3rd Month 10th, 1843, to 3rd Month 8th, 1844.*

1843.		1844.	
<b>DR.</b>		<b>CR.</b>	
1843.		By Cash paid for Salaries of Librarians, Assistant Librarians, Janitors, &c. and for Commissions for Collecting Contributions,	574 65
3 mo. 10.	To Balance in Treasurer's hands this day,	" paid for Printing, &c.	74 05
	amount of Cash received for Subscriptions and Contributions of Members,	" Rent of Room, 2 years,	100 00
	Subscriptions of Free Quakers' Society, in lieu of rent, (2 years,)	" Binding Books,	18 92
	Cash received from Dividend, Interest, and Ground-rent,	" for Gas Light,	79 47
	do. received for Fines at Library, Catalogues sold Boys and Girls,	" for Coal and Coke,	12 50
	do. for Fines of Managers,	" for Insurance of Books and fixtures,	12 00
		" Carpenter's Bill,	3 50
		" Incidentals,	2 00
		" Balance due the Company,	293 36
			<u>\$1,170 45</u>

The undersigned Committee of the Board of Managers of the Apprentices' Library Company, having examined the account of the Treasurer and compared it with his books and vouchers, find it to be correct; the balance in his hands due the Company, being two hundred and ninety-three 36-100 dollars.

JESSE OGDEN,  
SAMUEL J. SHARPLESS.  
*Philadelphia, Third Month 8th, 1844.*

OFFICERS  
OF  
THE APPRENTICES' LIBRARY COMPANY,

ELECTED MARCH 12, 1844.

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*President*, TOWNSEND SHARPLESS,  
*Vice-President*, JOSEPH D. BROWN,  
*Secretary*, JAMES J. BARCLAY,  
*Treasurer*, SAMUEL MASON.

**BOARD OF MANAGERS.**

Isaac Barton,	Jesse Ogden,
Frederick Fraley,	Samuel J. Sharpless,
John Bouvier,	Samuel W. Lippincott,
Isaac Lloyd, Jr.	B. R. Snider,
John Cooper,	Joshua Mitchell,
William R. Maxfield,	Joel Cadbury,
William Kite,	Charles H. Abbott,
Peter Wright,	George R. Smith,
Thomas M'Collin,	George Dilks,
Joseph Hutchinson,	Thomas C. Garrett,
Joseph H. Seal,	Joshua T. Jeanes,
Paul W. Newhall,	Benj'n M. Hollinshead.

**BOYS' LIBRARY.**

John Lynas Smith, *Librarian*.

Wm. J. McElroy,      } *Assistant Librarians.*  
James Kirkpatrick,    }

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**GIRLS' LIBRARY.**

Frances Lea Clement, *Librarian*.

Rich'd Parker,      } *Assistant Librarians.*  
John Keffer,        }